

Removing a Rear Rotor Stuck on the Parking Brake

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Vehicles Involved: All Vehicles with Drum-in-Hat Rear Brakes

Condition: Drum-in-Hat Rotor is Stuck on the Parking Brake

If you are having trouble removing a drum-in-hat rotor, don't just take a hammer to it. You may have to adjust the parking brake and back it off the rotor in order to remove the rear rotor.

This problem is common in vehicles where drivers don't often use the parking brake. When the parking brake isn't used, rust and corrosion builds up inside the drum. This causes the drum-in-hat rotor to stick to the parking brake.

Therefore, in order to remove the rotor, you have to back the parking brake off the drum lining.

Repair Procedure:

In order to adjust the parking brake, you need to locate the access hole on the rotor (see Figure 1). Some rotors have the access hole on the hat of the rotor. Others are located in the back of the rotor (see Figure 2).



Figure 1



Figure 2

Take the rubber plug off the rotor. Then, use a brake spoon or a flathead screwdriver to turn the adjuster wheel. Usually, a few clicks of the wheel will do the trick. If you don't know which direction to turn the wheel, start rotating the adjuster while spinning the rotor. If you are turning the adjuster the wrong way, you will feel the drag.

Once you back the parking brake off, you may still need to tap on the rotor with a hammer to get the rotor off. But now you won't risk damaging the parking brake assembly.

When the rotor off, it is important that you inspect the parking brake assembly. Make sure to inspect the lining of the parking brake shoes along with the hardware.